

plentifully, and to breed it from the larvæ. It is somewhat curious that, feeding also on the *Impatiens* at the same place, Pastor Fuchs found the larvæ of *balsaminata*, which Guenée considers only a var. of *silacea*, and which precedes that species in Staudinger's catalogue. When the larva of *reticulata* really becomes known in this country, southern entomologists will no doubt try it with *Impatiens fulva*, now becoming so common on the banks of the tributaries of the Thames; and perhaps it might not even refuse garden balsam.—EDS.

Emmelesia unifasciata three years in the pupa state.—In September, 1871, I collected a considerable quantity of the larvæ of *Emmelesia unifasciata* off *Bartsia odontites*. A few of the moths made their appearance in 1872, the greater number appeared in 1873, and the remainder, eight or ten specimens, emerged this season, having been three years in the pupa state.—A. H. JONES, Shrublands, Eltham: 8th October, 1874.

Obituary.

Francis Walker. More than twenty years too late for his scientific reputation, and after having done an amount of injury to entomology almost inconceivable in its immensity, Francis Walker has passed from among us. More than forty years ago, he became prominently known as an entomologist through his monograph of the minute parasitic insects of the family *Chalcididæ*. This was originally published in the old 'Entomological Magazine' with which Walker was closely connected.

Whatever shortcomings time may have proved to exist in that monograph, it marked an era in the study of its subject, and, as coming from the brain and pen of quite a young man, gave reasonable promise of a brilliant future. And its author never seemed to have forgotten his first love: he continued to publish on the group, and almost his latest productions, written at a time when his entomological reputation was worn to shreds, were on the *Chalcididæ*. Next to these insects, the *Diptera* and *Aphididæ* seem at one time to have engaged his special attention; and he was the nominal author of the three volumes on *Diptera* forming part of the 'Insecta Britannica' series, though the universal verdict of Dipterists accords most of the merit of this work to the part actually written by Haliday.

This latter publication brings us to the commencement of the second half of the present century, about which time Walker, in an unlucky moment, was induced to commence the series of British Museum Catalogues, that, associated with his name, have become objects of derision to all conscientious entomologists. As time wore on, volume after volume of these Catalogues appeared in a continuous stream, and almost on every order of insects, *Colcoptera* excepted (coleopterists have probably had their share of Walkers under other names). As *compilations* they are remarkable proofs, not only of the plodding industry, but also of the great amount of bibliographical research exhibited in them; and had Walker been content to leave them as *compilations*, they would have been regarded as blessings by all. But, essaying to do that which is beyond the power of any individual, he set to work to 'describe' in all orders, and multitudes of both generic and specific names are attributable to him. The result was what might have been expected. The work was done mechanically: 'New genera and species' were erected in the most reckless manner, and instances are on record in which individuals of one and the same species have been proved to have been made by him to do duty under several generic (and

more specific) names. The inevitable consequences soon followed. The author, and the authorities of the British Museum who permitted the scandal, came under the lash of such criticism as has happily seldom been directed against scientific men. This criticism had no other effect than (apparently) to increase the evil. Walker, by nature, appeared to be utterly indifferent to anything that could be hurled at him, and the only apparent answer on the part of the ruling power at the Museum was the commencement of Catalogues of hitherto unassailed groups or orders. With no courage to resist such commands, the duties were accomplished, each part meeting the like verdict at the bar of scientific opinion as its predecessor; though we heartily believe that Walker was inwardly conscious of his inability to perform the tasks imposed upon him.

The evil did not stop here. Possessors of rich private collections who desired names for their insects, and travellers wishing to have Natural History appendices to the narrations of their adventures, naturally thought there could be no better authority than the semi-official compiler of Catalogues for the chief entomological collection in the world; and Walker was probably never known to decline any request from such quarters, so that, eventually, he may be said to have become a mere describing machine; and, not content with inflicting upon entomology the damage caused by his Catalogues, the pages of every available medium were filled with his lucubrations. To their honour, be it said, the Linnean and Entomological Societies long ago declined to publish some of his papers, so that the evil was somewhat mitigated, and of late his publications were few, outside the Catalogues. With regard to these latter, and much of his later work, he had not even the excuse of pecuniary need, for we believe his circumstances were such as to place him beyond the suspicion of being influenced in this way.

We earnestly hope that never again will it fall to us, nor to our successors in entomological journalism, to have to write such an obituary notice as this. That the motto, '*De mortuis nil nisi bonum,*' will be directed against us we fully expect; and we answer before-hand that we have only judged Walker as an *entomologist*. In his social relations he was amiability itself, and probably there are few men who have lived to the age of 65 (his age at the time of his death), and made so few enemies. Even those who felt most keenly the disrepute into which he brought the entomological section of our great Natural History Museum, will miss with regret his courteous salutation and simplicity of manner.

Mr. Walker died at his residence, Elm Hall, Wanstead, Essex, on the 5th of October, after what must have been a short illness. He was, we believe, of Scotch descent, and of an originally quaker family. He leaves one son, a clergyman (known as a collector of exotic butterflies), and several daughters.

William Lello. This gentleman was born in Shropshire, but at an early age settled in Liverpool, where, until his death, he was engaged in very active commercial pursuits, his short leisure being entirely devoted to the study of entomology and its handmaiden botany, often leaving himself without that rest and care for health which are necessary for a continuance of successful study. Although of strong constitution, possibly to this cause may, in a great measure, be traced the source of a very rapid illness which proved fatal, somewhat suddenly, on the 19th September last, at the age of 41 years. Being of reserved temperament, he never courted a large acquaintance, but those who knew him fully appreciated his active, generous, and undemonstrative friendship. He leaves a very considerable collection of *Lepidoptera*, formed under difficulties which would have daunted many.—[J. T. C.]